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News in brief

DEMCO 128-5046

State, county unemployment up

Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates recorded only minor changes over the month in most of the 17 Michigan major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth. In October, total employment and labor force levels increased moderately in the majority of areas.

From October 2007 to October 2008, unemployment rates rose in all 17 areas, with a significant median advance of 2.2 percentage points. All regions posted rate jumps of at least a full percentage point in this period.

That leaves the statewide unemployment rate at 9.8, and the Wayne County unemployment rate at 10.1.

Wayne is one of 59 of 83 Michigan counties which recorded unemployment rate increases during the month with a median advance of 0.6 of a percentage point.

The overall unemployment rate is considered high, but the level of increase is considered normal for the end of the year, analysts said.

"The minor or seasonal changes that occurred in Michigan's various local labor markets in October were fairly typical for this time of year," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Since October 2007 however, there has been a considerable labor market weakening throughout all regions of the state."

Numbers for individual communities will be released to the public later this month.

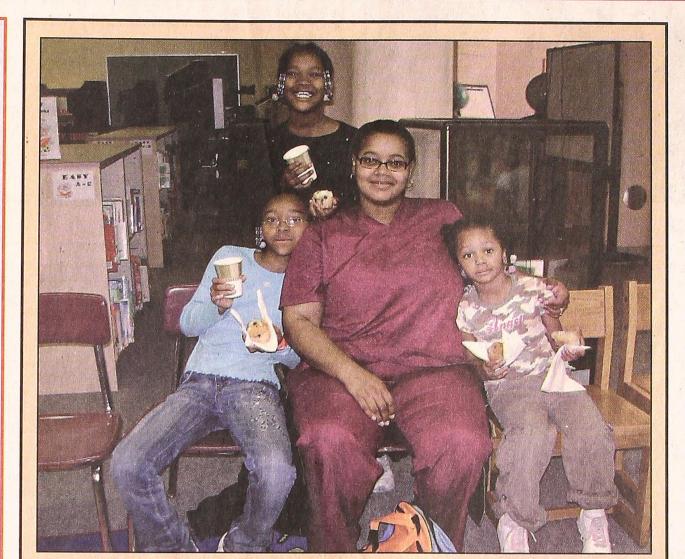
Music festival scheduled

Inkster City Council members voted to schedule the Inkster Jazz Festival, and to give the committee in charge of organizing the event permission to raise money and hire vendors.

Council members voted to close Inkster Road between Avondale Street to Michigan Avenue for the

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Muffins for Moms

Cory Elementary School staff members once again organized the annual "Muffins for Moms" breakfast this year. During the event, students were able to enjoy breakfast and conversation with their mothers to start the school day. Among those in attendance were (left to right): Samiya Moore, Mariah Moore, Cory parent Tresontae Moore and Ajontae Moore.

Airport, city police dispute tickets

Molly Tippen Staff Writer

A turf war has broken out between the Romulus Police Department and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport Police who operate at airport.

The flap began several weeks ago when airport police noticed stepped-up activities near Metro, which is traditionally policed by both the airport in-house department and city police.

"All you have to do is hang out near the exit and the entrance of the airport to see what's going on," said Michael Conway, spokesperson for the airport authority.

"Our chief of police has pulled the court records for the number of stops the Romulus Police have made since July, and it's not hundreds, it's thousands. We don't feel there's anything wrong with telling our customers to follow traffic laws."

Mayor Alan Lambert, a former police officer himself, said he didn't believe the actions of the Romulus police were unusual.

"Romulus gets sort of picked on by drivers that are coming through our community," he said. "Our offi-

cers are out there doing their jobs. "We have a right to make things

safe for our residents and the people who are driving here, so if they're speeding, they're going to get a ticket whether they're going to the airport or not," he added.

The airport police posted signs on airport garages and printed flyers that warn travelers that the Romulus police have increased patrols, encouraging drivers to obey traffic laws - a move that Lambert called "unjustified."

Clash of equals

The situation between the two agencies has grown increasingly

See Tickets, page 4

Bill expands energy offerings

Molly Tippen Staff Writer

A Senate bill that would allow low-income homeowners to make energy-efficient improvements to their homes was approved by the State Senate Tuesday afternoon.

Senate Bill 1637, which was sponsored by Sen. Tupac Hunter (D-Detroit) is part of a package of bills that expands the Individual or Family Development Account Program in the Michigan State Housing Authority (MSHDA)

The program was created in 2006 to give low-income earners a chance to save for a home, a college education, or a business and receive matching funds from public or private sources.

The Family Development program was modeled on the Individual Development Account program that was established for the same purposes in the Department of Human Services in

"This is a good program that helps individuals and families improve their lives," said Hunter. "Expanding the program will give people a better chance to save for

Expanding the program will give people a better chance to save for what they need, and increase the value of their home by purchasing and installing energy efficient products.

Sen. Tupac Hunter

what they need, and increase the value of their home by purchasing and installing energy efficient products."

Specifically, the bill would authorize MSHDA to administer an expanded version of the Family Development program. The other bills in the package, Senate Bills 1635 and 1636, would amend the act that governs the program to allow people to establish accounts to save for qualified home improvements, such as the purchase and installation of a qualified Energy

Star product.

Products that are covered by the bills include windows, doors, insulation, high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment, and any appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers, and refrigerators.

Though all Michigan residents should try to find ways to save energy – and thereby money – low income residents have a difficult time saving for such improvements after primary expenses are met, said Hunter.

"Allowing people to establish accounts to save for energy efficiency improvements to their homes will help low-income families save on their utility costs, and will also help us in our quest to become an energy-saving, green community," said Hunter.

After the votes were counted Tuesday, the bill was approved unanimously.

Hunter represents the 5th District, which is comprised of Northwest Detroit, Dearborn Heights and Inkster.

To find out more about changes in the Family Development program, or to determine program eligibly, call (313) 456-3540.

Casino support could change

Molly Tippen Staff Writer

Romulus officials hope a yearlong moratorium regarding the expansion of Indian gaming that was put into place by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs will be lifted, or at least more flexible, under a Barack Obama administration.

City officials met with a representative from the Hannahville Indians last week, and all involved said they felt they would receive more consideration for the tribal request to build a casino in Romulus.

99

I think there will be people up there who understand that we're in trouble here -Michigan is in bad shape.

Mayor Alan Lambert

"I think that once there're more Democrats in Washington, and more people who are interested in helping Michigan, we will turn this around," said Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert.

"I think there will be people up there who understand that we're in trouble here - Michigan is in bad shape."

Romulus and the Hannahville Indian Tribe signed an agreement in 2005 to provide, at the bare minimum, \$6 million in casino earnings to the city each year the casino is operational.

Depending on how much is taken in by the casino, that figure could increase, but is capped at

\$20 million per year. When the bureau halted Indian gaming, the city was left in limbo. The situation was exacerbated when, earlier this year, another deal with the Sault St. Marie Chippewas was negated after Congress voted down a bill that would have allowed that tribe to build on reservation land.

The casino would be located on a vacant parcel of land at Vining Road and I-94. Initially, the casino was part of a "racino" concept that would have included a harness racing track.

Canada-based Magna Entertainment backed out of that deal, and a track has since opened nearby.

At the time the Hannahville deal was signed, Romulus offered support to two other tribes - the Grand Traverse Band and Sioux Indians.

If the city signs a deal with the Grand Traverse Band, the process would play out exactly the same way as it did for the Hannahville tribe.

The process of obtaining all

See Buildings, page 4

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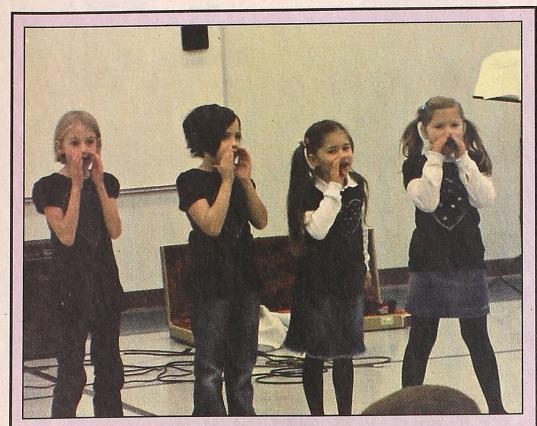








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Show your talent

Students at the Keystone Academy in Belleville were recently to express their singing, music, dance, instrumental, magic and impersonation talents during a school-wide talent show. Some of the performers included: Janey Stuckey, who sang "Respect" by Aretha Franklin; Renee Crova, Emily Charlesworth, Laura Jordan and Raegan Laskie, who sang the "Friends Song" and Mathieu Tessier, who played the drums.





Comcast offers scholarships

Comcast is now seeking nominations from area high schools for the 2009 Comcast Leaders and Achievers program, which provides \$1,000 scholarships to college-bound high school seniors each year.

"The Comcast Leaders and Achievers scholarship program is as an important investment in our local communities, as well as a way to reward students for their hard work at school and in their community," said Dave Buhl, senior vice president of Comcast Michigan Region. "This is an exciting time of year for us as applications start to come in from local principals and we get ready to recognize another impressive group of local high school seniors."

The Comcast Leaders and Achievers scholarship program, one of the Comcast Foundation signature community investment initiatives, recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership skills, academic achievement and a commitment to community service. Comcast has distributed nomination packages to high schools. Nomination deadline is Dec. 12. One student per high school can be nominated.

Nominees must be full-time high school seniors, demonstrate a strong commitment to community service and display leadership abilities in school activities or through work experience, must have a grade point average of 2.8 or higher, must be selected by their high school principal or guidance counselor and must plan to attend an accredited, nonprofit college, university or vocational/technical school in the United States.

Home-schooled students can e-mail comcast@applyists.com for nomination forms. Winners will be notified by the end of February.

Crime statistics released

77-

It's the economy. Whenever

the economy goes bad, crime

goes up. We have our share

of crime, but larceny and theft

is up everywhere.

Police Chief Gene Taylor

Andrea King Staff Writer

Both property crime and larceny seem to be the highest incident crimes of 2007 for the Belleville area.

The FBI Uniform Crime Report "Crime in the United States", which was released recently for 2007, showed an increase in

most crimes from 2006 in Van Buren. The 2006 data was not reported from the Belleville police.

In 2007, both property crimes and larceny reports were the most reported crimes, opposed to other categories while violent crime decreased. Figures for 2007 show that of the 3,766 people in the city, there were

only six reported violent crimes, which are classified as murder, manslaughter, forcible rape and aggravated assault. For Van Buren, the 2007 data shows that of the 28,247 people—an increase from last year—in the township, 142 known violent crimes were reported.

Five violent crimes were reported, along with one aggravated assault in Belleville. In Van Buren, 80 violent crimes were reported, along with eight forcible rapes and 54 aggravated assaults. When violent crime data was compared with data from last year, the numbers in each category decreased from 2006-

Property crime, which is classified as burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft and arson, were crimes on the rise for 2007. Belleville reported its highest crime there,

while Van Buren Township had a significant increase from 397 known incidents in 2006

to 1,626 in 2007. Individually, residents endured more than 121 burglaries in 2007, 581 larceny thefts, 110 motor vehicle thefts and two arsons. Belleville reported 146 property crimes, 16 burglaries, 122 larceny thefts and

eight motor vehicle thefts. Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said property crime is up all over, simply because it's a sign of the times.

> "It's the economy. Whenever the economy goes bad, crime goes up," he said. "We have our share of crime, but larceny and theft is up everywhere."

Capt. Greg Laurain of the Van

Buren Township Public Safety Department did not return phone calls seeking a comment for this story in time for publication.

Overall, the nation saw a 1.4 percent reduction in violent crimes last year, when compared with numbers compiled in 2006. The rate of violent crime increased in 2006 from 2005, as well. It also saw a decrease in property crimes nationwide at 2.1 percent from 2006.

The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting System measures crime levels in communities nationwide to help law enforcement focus efforts on community-specific issues that need to be addressed. The report can be viewed in full at www.fbi.gov/ucr.

Staff Writer Molly Tippen contributed to





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County changes road-clearing procedures

Meghan Chatham Staff Writer

Drivers may notice a change to major roadways after snowstorms as Wayne County implements new policies on how the roads will be maintained.

One of the changes will be focused on the county strategy for dealing with snow-covered roads. Instead of spreading roads with road salt, as has been done in the past to 'burn' roads open, Wayne County is switching to a 'plow and salt' procedure.

"This has been the methodology practiced in Europe for at least the past 15 to 20 years in large part because of it's environmentally conscientious considerations, efficiencies and economically responsible impacts," said James A. Jackson Jr., director of the Wayne County Department of Public Service in a written statement. Last year, Wayne County spent \$8.7 million on road salt alone.

The new county policy also prioritizes the road clearances into two categories: orange, for roads including freeways that are the highest priority, and blue, for all other roadways. Category orange locations will continue to be cleared first with the goal of attaining bare payment, even if it requires working overtime to achieve that standard. 'Blue' roads—or most major roadways that are not freeways—will be plowed to tire tracks, not necessari-

ly to bare pavement, during a storm to allow for the flow of traffic while allowing for a more effective use of overtime.

"The impetus for the county to change its operations stems in large part from a flat revenue stream, increasing fringe benefit (healthcare) costs, material and supply costs," said Jackson. "Most importantly, we did not want to find ourselves in a situation this year where, as a result of a possible heavy winter, we were once again forced to incur additional lay-offs and subsequent further reductions in services. As a result of last year's heavy winter, we were forced to layoff 31 personnel to keep the operation going to the end of the fiscal

He added that the department has lost more than 400 workers during the past four years and urged residents to be patient as the county works to maintain quality services despite being at "bare minimums."

However, Belleville area officials aren't worried about the changes. They said they are in the clear, so to speak.

"We won't be affected by that," said Keith Boc, director of public services for Belleville. "We should have nothing to worry about because we're stock-piled from last year and all set for this year."

Todd Knepper, public works director for Van Buren Township, said while they do understand the budget concern, it will undoubtedly - 55

This has been the methodology practiced in Europe for at least the past 15 to 20 years in large part because of it's environmentally conscientious considerations, efficiencies and economically responsible impacts.

James A. Jackson Jr.

affect travel throughout the town-

"But, in terms of direct impact on our level of service, as a township, we do not provide winter maintenance on any roadways, so it will not impact our operations," he said. "We only service township owned properties."

As the economic constraints faced by the county trickle down to the municipalities, however, some area officials are concerned about what consequences the changes might have for drivers in Wayne and Westland.

"I'm trying to be an optimist," said Kevin Buford, director of the Westland Department of Public Service. "It could have a major impact on our roads. We're going to do everything we can to make sure the roads are as safe as possible in the City of Westland."

One major sticking point, he said, is that under the new plan, clearing key roads in the community could take longer to achieve and could hinder transportation within the area since most of the major roads, including Ford, Wayne,

Warren, Venoy, Merriman, Middlebelt, and Inkster roads, are under county jurisdiction. He noted that the situation could put the city into the position of either having to wait for the clearance of the county roads or to find a way to fund more rapid clearance.

"We're not supposed to do any work or any maintenance on their roads," said Buford, adding that the city doesn't have the salt, the equipment or the manpower budget to extend beyond the 221 miles of citymaintained roads.

Ton MacDonald, director of the Wayne Department of Public Works, seconded that message in a memo to Wayne City Manager John Zech.

"The bottom line is that the level of services that we receive from Wayne County and the State of Michigan continues to decline," said MacDonald. "During a snow storm event, we do not have the staff or equipment to take on those roads as well as our own city streets. I think the public is going to be surprised at how long it will take to have some of these streets in

good shape after a snow."

Although he acknowledged some of the concerns, Jackson said that the county would continue to work hard to ensure the roads are, in fact, safe.

"Yes, the new strategy will take longer to open the roads up," said Jackson. "And yes, we have also changed the timeframe within which we will open up some of our county local roads as well as some of the state trunk lines. And yes, as a result of consolidating our routes from 133 to 99 many of our routes will take longer to address because they are longer. Yet we remain committed to making all of the roads we are responsible for plowing safe for travel as quickly as Mother Nature will allow us to work with the resources we have available to us."

Drivers are urged to be very cautious about traveling during and following inclement weather, to stay abreast of the weather forecast and, to plan their travels accordingly, if possible.

Staff Writer Andrea King contributed to this story



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Madd hosts annual holiday event

MADD Wayne County will host the annual "Tie One on For Safety" campaign to eliminate drunk driving.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday at the Westland shopping center:

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans, Westland Mayor William Wild and other dignitaries will be on-hand to spread the word

about a safe and sober holiday season.

MADD is also working with law enforcement to send the message "if you drive at or over the legal limit, you will be under arrest." The enforcement period will take place from Dec. 19-Jan.1, MADD is also asking the public to tie a MADD red ribbon decal to their vehicles in support of the campaign.

The holidays are among the deadliest times on the roads. American families will be sharing the roads this holiday season with more than an estimated 2.8 million convicted drunk drivers with three or more convictions and of those, more than 600,000 have five or more convictions. According to the Office of Highway Safety Planning, there were 345 alcohol related fatalities in Michigan in 2007.

Wayne County had 59 fatalities and 910 alcohol related injuries in 2007, which was a 1.5 increase from 2007.

On average, someone is killed by a drunk driver every 40 minutes nationwide. In 2007, an estimated 12,998 people died in drunk driving related crashes—a decline of 3.7 percent from the 13,491 drunk driving related fatalities of 2006, according to MADD. For more information, visit www.madd.org.



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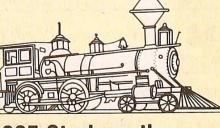
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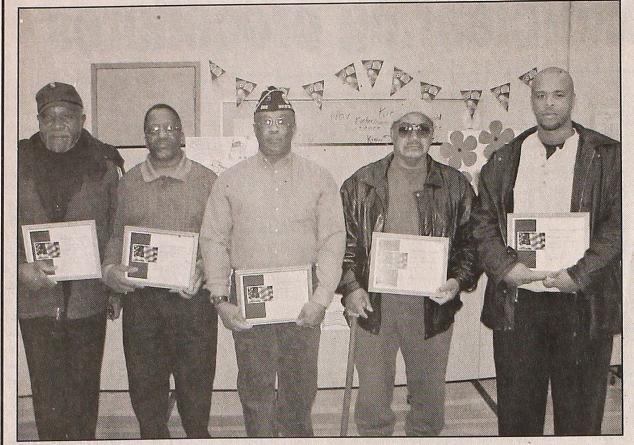




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Saying thanks

Students at Cory Elementary School took time to recognize our nation's veterans at an assembly in their honor recently. Veterans in attendance spoke about what serving their country meant to them, and answered many questions from the students. Jada McGinnis, a Cory sixth grader, read a tribute to our country's veterans that she wrote for the occasion. Veterans honored with certificates from the school included (left to right): Horatio Donald, George Stubbs, Roosevelt Stubbs, Tyree Vesey, and William Bryant.

Inkster gets new city manager

Molly Tippen Staff Writer

A closed session at the end of the Inkster City Council meeting Monday resulted in a final deal with a new manager to run the day-to-day operations of the municipality

Anne Capella will become city manager on Monday, Dec. 15, but few other details about her contract were available Tuesday afternoon, said Bill Lawrence, city personnel director.

"Now that an agreement has been reached, we're waiting on a call to schedule a physical," he said. "I don't have any other details of the contract as of yet."

Capella will take control of a city with 10 departments and a \$20 million annual budget. She will be the first permanent manager on site since Joyce Parker vacated the position Oct. 15.

Reid Charles, a Michigan Municipal League subcontractor who is managing the city on a temporary basis, will remain with the city until the end of the year to provide a smooth transition in management, Lawrence said.

Capella's arrival in Inkster will end what has been a difficult search for a point person to lead

the city. The first round of interviews for the position produced a candidate that did not accept the job, choosing instead to accept a deputy administrator's post in the City of Southfield.

Capella brings to the city 15 years in municipal administration and a background in the automotive industry.

Capella's most recent position was with Durango, Colo., where she served in the transportation department. In that community, Capella oversaw the revision and updating of the city transit map, and the procedure to handle public complaints. She also participated in a subcommittee that oversaw the design of a new transit center, according to her resume.

She has also served as a community manager in Minturn, Co., which is located outside of the resort enclave of Vail.

In that capacity, Capella reor ganized the city staff - which nearly doubled in recent years.

Economic activity in the community also led to the hiring of new staff, attorneys and consultants, and doubled revenues. She held that position from 2003 to 2007, according to her credentials.

From 2000 to 2003, Capella

served as the county executive officer of Imperial County, Ca., which has a population of 145,000 residents. In that position, she helped to complete an \$11 million dollar international border infrastructure project.

Capella also held positions with Walworth County, Wis., Livingston County, Il., and the Tax Research Conference of Sioux City, Ia.

In Michigan, she held positions with Detroit Edison, the Wayne County Commission and the City of Southfield.

Capella has also worked in the automotive industry. She worked in the quality control department of General Motors Canada.

She holds a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in local government from the University of Windsor, and a master's degree in public personnel management from Wayne

Lawrence said the details of Capella's contract would be made public once the city personnel department receives the docu-

Capella will be one of two city employees who report directly to the city council. The other is City Clerk Velida Gutierrez-Smith.

still sour grapes on the part of airport management.

"I would suggest the statements made by the Airport Authority are in retaliation against the City of Romulus who, with adjacent communities, successfully opposed the airport runway expansion," he said. "Is it a justifiable expense for the airport to post a billboard that admonishes drivers not to speed because a police officer will ticket speeding drivers?"

Conway said the expansion plan is not a factor in the current dis-

"The mayor (Lambert) made statements that he was happy with the consensus we reached (about

the expansion)," he said. Conway added that the disparity of opinion regarding the tickets boils down to actions.

"If this was really about traffic safety, why not put up a light-up sign to let people know they're speeding?" he said.

"The airport police works cooperatively with the Romulus police on a regular basis. We will continue to do so. They certainly have a right to police the streets. We're just having a difference in opinion about this issue," Conway said.

Street project stagnates

> Andrea King Staff Writer

Despite some mixed messages, the Main Street repaying and water main project remains at a standstill.

Patrick Bruetsch, spokesperson for the Main Street Merchants Association (MSMA), stated in a recent letter that a new agreement worked out among the board and other city officials would save \$4 million on the previously rejected \$6.5 million Main Street bond.

"We felt a responsibility to work behind the scenes to get a better, less expensive, less disruptive plan for accomplishing the repaving of Main Street and I'm pleased to inform you that, working with our mayor and new city manager, such a plan has been developed cooperatively—a plan that if approved by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), may well have the full backing of the MSMA," he wrote in the letter.

"It would close the street for the shortest feasible time, and allow for a new 12-inch water line, all for the relatively paltry sum of \$2.5 million or to say it another way, \$4 million less than it was going to cost before we started circulating our petitions," he added.

Bruetsch wrote that the new idea would tunnel the water line, while the street remained open. The street would be milled in one weekend and receive a special concrete-to take about five weeks-to last 30 years.

However, officials said there is no paving plan that will save \$4 million.

"Nothing we have looked at is that much of a cost differential," said Carol Thompson, administrative coordinator for the DDA. "Costs are rising and the still will be in 2009."

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said officials did meet with members of the MSMA group, but never committed to anything.

"We told them the city was going to do what they could to advance the project. Main Street is our number one priority," she said.

After meeting with the city engineers, it was determined the best option would be an open trench process. It was never the intention to do a 'mill and fill', according to

"Spicer engineers said it was a shorter time period to open Main Street a block or two at a time," she said. "Opening up Main Street will also allow us to look at the road. Timing was basically less with the open trench and with Main Street being an old downtown, there are factors to consider, basically we know the sewer lines are deep and we know where all the utilities are underneath there, but it would take time to drill.

"Everybody would like to see Main Street redone, but how the process is going to occur is still debatable," she added.

The open trench process will give a longer life and serves not only for a new water main, but also allows workers to see the base of the road, according to officials.

Thompson said the project is in the development plan and there is still work to be done on what kind of financing is available.

"We expect to have some kind of recommendation to come back to the DDA this month," she said. "We would make sure two lanes of traffic would be open. We understand the road needs to be kept open and that's how the project's been engineered. "

Keith Boc, director of public services, said the city council and the DDA have to work together on the Main Street plan.

"If the DDA doesn't pay, it doesn't get done, that's the facts because the city doesn't have money," he said. "We're still hoping to get the road done next year and we plan on it, but there's still issues on the road, bonding and working with people. The DDA plan is good and the best one so I hope it goes through."

Thompson said they hope to do the water main and road at different times in 2009.

Calendar of events

Goodfellows seeking applicants

The Romulus Goodfellows are accepting applications for its "No Child Without A Christmas' campaign through tomor-

Applications are available for Romulus residence only at Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road or Romulus Fire Station #4, 28777 Eureka Road during the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and Romulus Senior Citizens at 36525 Bibbins.

To find out more about qualifying to receive gifts, call (734) 955-4577.

Fall book club announced

The Second Monday Book Club has announced selections for book discussion scheduled throughout the winter months.

The book club meets from 7 until 8:15 p.m. the second Monday of each month to discuss various books at the library.

Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstov, will be discussed Dec. 8; American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery" by Loren D.Estleman, will be discussed Jan. 12; Ladies of Liberty by Cokie Roberts, will be discussed Feb. 9; Thief of Souls by Ann Benson, will be discussed March 9; and Anatomy of a Murder by Robert Traver, will be discussed April 13.

Book discussions are free and open to all age 18 and up. Readers need not register in advance.

The library will have copies of the books, or will assist participants in obtaining an inter-library loan copy.

The Romulus Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next door to the Romulus City Hall facility.

For more information, call the library at (734) 941-3575.

Township craft show Saturday

The annual holiday craft and art show will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at township hall. Concessions by the Red Hatters and a senior bake sale will also be included. Entry is free. For more information, call (734) 699-8921.

Holiday concerts this weekend

The Belleville Community Chorus will host a holiday concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday at the First United Methodist Church Belleville. Belleville Children's Chorus will also host a concert at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

Seniors host dinner dance

The September Days Senior Center will host a holiday dinner dance from 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 at Van Buren Township Hall. Tickets are \$5 and music will be by Eddie "O". The blanket chest and quilt will be raffled off at the event. For tickets or more information, contact the senior center at (734) 699-8918.

-Events are compiled by staff writer Molly Tippen. To have your event published in the paper send an email to mtippen@journalgroup.com.

Tickets

FROM PAGE 1

heated during the past few weeks, driving the point home that one man's law enforcement is another man's fundraiser.

"We have received more e-mails than we can count saying, 'I'm 56 years old, and I've never received a ticket," Conway said. "They're saying, 'I know Detroit needs money.' The people that come through the airport are from out of town - they don't know who does what, and (the city of) Detroit and the airport are getting blamed for this."

Tickets have been a hot topic in the media due to the slow economy and an increase in parking violations in many cities. Tickets, however, represent a relatively small amount of revenue for the city because much of the money is turned over to local court systems, Lambert said.

"I'm not going to lie and say we don't get revenue from it, because we do," he said. "It's only a piece of why we're doing this - safety is the most important thing. And the revenue that we get goes back to the

police department."

But airport officials are concerned that the speed traps create an uninviting environment for travelers, thousands of whom make their way into the airport in a given year, and spend money that helps shore up the local economy.

In recent weeks, airport police have warned travelers parking in and around the airport terminals about traffic enforcement efforts which in turn caused the Romulus police to accuse airport police officials of interfering with their right to enforce the law by parking their vehicles near city police cruisers to dissuade speeders.

Lambert said the efforts have reduced vehicle traffic accidents by 250 incidents within the city.

Expansion bitterness cited

Earlier this year, a delegation of Romulus officials and other area mayors formed a group that opposed the airport master plan, which called for the inclusion of a fifth parallel runway and the demolition of a significant number of residential and commercial build-

Lambert said he believes the ticket situation shows that there's

ly approved a ballot initiative that

Lambert hopes there will be a breakthrough for one or both of the tribes, if for no other reason than the jobs gaming could pro-

"We spoke, and the tribe and the city are confident 2009 will be the year we get a casino," Lambert said.

FROM PAGE 1

the permits – plus the scrutiny of

the state and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington – played out over an 8-month period, but the city and the tribe were eventually told by bureau officials that no decisions would finalized, Lambert said.

Once a casino is constructed,

the site technically becomes reservation land, which means the city cannot collect property taxes. The revenue stream created by the deal ensures the city will receive a stable amount of

cash in return for having a casino. A casino would have to applyand be approved for-a license with the Michigan Gaming Control Board before it could

Romulus voters overwhelming-

paved the way for gaming in the city in December 2003. Five years down the line,

trying to help out.

11121 Wayne Road

UPINION

An unexpected and 'SAD' situation for all

The Northville Township Board of Trustees found themselves in an unenviable position recently.

Ironically, they were put there by the residents they were

The issue on the table was a Special Assessment District (SAD), a process by which taxpayers can request major infrastructure improvements. The municipality pays the upfront costs for the work and the impacted residents pay it back through an increased assessment on their taxes.

It's a vital tool, but the process might need a little tweak-

This one was a bit of a special case, too. It was initiated more than a year ago, when the economy was in better shape (believe it or not). When the costs came in, some residents favor of it. It pitted neighbor against neighbor and, as the dissatisfied residents left the last township board meeting, there were rumbles of a recall attempt.

But what was the board to do, really? This was something initiated by the residents. The township responded, spending money on engineering fees and the like to get the project going. The support for the project had indeed dwindled—it was as high as 71 percent of the impacted neighborhood at one time, but has since dropped below the 70 percent mark. It's still above the 51 percent required by state law, though.

It's true that the township didn't have to act on the SAD. They could have rejected it. If the board had done that, though, they would have set a couple of dangerous precedents. They would have wasted taxpayer money and they would have set up a situation where the minority had more sway than the majority. Neither of those things is good government.

Talks of a recall in this situation are just silly. Should this effort move forward and someone shows up at your door with a petition, just ask the 'Then what?' question and see if there are any answers.

Still, the SAD process might need more work. Perhaps, given the state of things and the general consensus that they may not improve for a year or two, a moratorium on these kinds of requests is in order. Maybe the township needs to put a temporary halt on things in order to keep peace between neighbors who, even in an upscale community like Northville, all answer to different financial realities.

At the very least, residents should be wary of that time honored phrase: be careful what you ask for.

Close

Vic Gustafson chaired the first planning commission meeting I ever attended in Canton Township.

That was more than 10 years ago, when I was first getting started in

Nearly 11 years later, after sitting through God-only-knows-how-many meetings in Canton, Northville, Plymouth, Wayne and Westland, I'm even more impressed. There are a lot of people that could learn a lot

He chaired his final planning commission meeting on Monday night and is stepping down after 20

There are a lot of positive things you could say about him. Here's a guy who quietly put his stamp on the

community, helping to improve it-

almost literally-brick by brick. He navigated touchy situations as if he were a born diplomat—and there were plenty of sticky situations to wade through during his tenure, when Canton saw its biggest popula-

What stuck out most to me, though, was his patience. There

were many times when I walked into a planning commission meeting, almost dismayed at the number of people in the audience, already

cranky at the prospect of another

long night listening to the subtle

nuances of side ordinances and set-

backs. Gustafson always had the

same smile as he welcomed people

in, pointed out empty seats and

the back rows were filled with mum-

bling malcontents, he just took it all

hoods impacted by development—

and let's face it, in the past 20 years, that is a pretty big crowd-might

have a hard time believing this, but Gustafson was always a champion

for them. He always pushed for quality developments that had as lit-

tle negative impact on residents as

possible and he always knew where

During contentious issues, when

People in some of the neighbor-

went over the rules.

in stride.

this business. I didn't know what to

expect, but I was impressed.

from Gustafson. I know I did.

years on the board.

tion increase.



A little spare change can go a long way

By all accounts, it's going to be a rough holiday season for many of us.

Requests for help have increased at a time when offers to help have dwindled.

There are plenty of opportunities to chip in and help the needy this year, and we'd like to offer an important reminder: you don't have to give a lot. Every little bit helps.

Remember the spare change in your pocket as you pass a bell ringer in front of a red bucket emblazoned with the Salvation Army logo. Scrape out your change collector in your car if personally by the economic climate, there are

you see a bundled Goodfellow volunteer in the streets on Saturday in Northville, Plymouth or Canton. In Wayne, stop by Jake's Again on Wayne Road on Thursday, or The Village Bar on Michigan Avenue next Thursday to take part in a raffle or, barring that, to just put up a paper

ornament on the wall. It only costs \$1. There are places to donate throughout all our communities, and more folks than ever who

need the help. No matter how badly we have been impacted those who have suffered far more serious conse-

quences. These are just a few of the opportunities we have to help out our fellow man during the coming weeks. We may all be strapped this year, but a little extra change can provide that additional edge that might bring more cheer to a family

We may be hurting, but it's important to remember that there are always others that are hurting more. Let's all be thankful for what we have, and give what we can.

How about some trickle up economics?

As we head into 2009, all of us, no matter our professions, educational levels or places of residence, are concerned with the fiscal health of our country and the world.

Last week the U.S Treasury proposed giving banks and other financial institutions \$800 billion, bringing the government obligations for Wall Street bailouts and loan guarantees to nearly \$7 trillion or nearly half of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The premise is with this money, companies like Citibank, Fannie and Freddie Mac and AIG, can sell their bad assets, stocks and properties that have been foreclosed or unpaid to the federal government in exchange for "live money" to be disbursed to Americans through normal enterprise activities. In English, the government will bail out the companies in order to allow people to get car loans, mortgages, credit cards and student loans again.

Sounds good. But there is one small hitch; it's not working fast enough. The money is not reaching the market fast enough and by the time it does, it may be too late for some companies as Congress figures out who deserves money for what while those who received the bailout money are holding onto it and not extending credit to those who need it, like small businesses or those of us who want a credit card.

Notwistanding the \$25 billion or so the Big 3 hopes to receive.

There are rumblings of a second stimulus package that would not only include money for taxpayers but funds to spark a 21st Century. But \$300-\$600 will do very little to help those in foreclosure or behind in student loan payments.

Here's an idea. Instead of giving the corporations the money and then hoping it trickles down to the consumer. How about giving the money directly to the consumer and having it rise up to the corporations.

According to the US Census Bureau, the population of the USA in 2006 18 years of age and older is 225,746,457. If you take the 7 trillion and divide it among the number of Americans over the age 18, every adult would have around \$31,000 to use to pay their bills, refinance their homes, start businesses, pay student loans and other obligations. In essence, it's a win-win for the consumers, markets and country.

The \$31,000 would be considered taxable income from state and municipal governments providing money to fix bridges and potholes as well as put cops on the street and build community recreational centers or any other infrastructure project. The federal government would, in return, collect taxes on the banks and mortgage companies, stock market purchases and income taxes from those businesses who hired additional employees due to spike-up in demand caused by the increased stimulus.

To ensure the 7 trillion is used to assist those in need to catch up on their financial obligations, all Americans who receive the cash would have their credit reports examined. Any outstanding creditor debt would be paid directly on your behalf to your creditors up to 25 percent of your government stimulus. (All creditors would receive an equal amount of money from the 25 percent pullout)

Of course this would not be a money grab. Provisions must be in place to assure the safe transfer of funds as well as making training on investments and business practices available for those who seek them. Like any medicine, the patient needs to know about the side effects and potential pitfalls.

I fully understand that some would consider this socialism or the death knell to the free market philosophies of American capital-

Lester ism. My suggestion is a one-time deal.

This has to be a one-time deal. The government cannot be the constant provider. And with the stimulus injection going directly through the American bloodstream by placing the cash into the hands of Americans, we wouldn't have to administer this medicine again.



to draw the line. After so much time in a generally thankless role, he's more than earned his time of relaxation. I envy him, too, since he can leave knowing with certainty that the community is a better place because of his efforts.



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Aziz Haridy President

Susan Willett Publisher - Emeritus Sean Rhaesa

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Happy, happy holidays

It's the most wonderful time of the year. And, things are certainly looking up for the season in Belleville. City officials, organizations and businesses have really stepped-up to fill the month with holiday activities.

In case you haven't been reading any of the papers, this weekend will actually kick-off the holidays at the Belleville Area Museum with an ornament workshop for children, along with a craft show at Van Buren Township Hall and the Angel of Hope ceremony at the Brown Funeral Home.

The following week is packed with events beginning with a whole day of events on Dec. 13. The day starts with a 3K Jingle Bell Run, which will generate funds for the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation and may see me as a participant.

The second-ever nighttime Christmas parade will also happen at 6 p.m. at Belleville High School and will feature businessowner Dawn Bokon as the grand marshal, returning favorites, treats, pictures, stockings and of course good Old St. Nick. Awards, Santa being presented with the key to the community and the annual tree lighting will then follow at the museum. Kids can then visit with Santa at the First United Methodist Church to get a free picture and give him their Christmas wish

At 7 p.m., the fireworks display will start

and people can watch the light show from the warming tent along the lake at Horizon Park.

Businesses will also spread their holiday cheer along Main Street as part of a decorating contest for the "Best Business" on the block. Ice sculptures will be added to the list sponsored by area businesses and on display, too. Don't forget the check out the carving demonstration by the professionals at 3 p.m. at the Fourth Street Square.

Court

Two specially decorated Christmas trees will also be auctioned off to the lucky bidders as a fundraiser for the museum. And if you just can't get enough of Santa this time of year, then visit him at Van Buren Township Hall on Dec. 14, at the library on Dec. 15. or at the museum again on Dec. 20.

When I was gathering information for the holiday events this year, one businessowner told me that even with the way the economy is people rallied together to make the event a success. I like that.

I think it's great how the city, township, businesses and organizations of the area came together this year to really celebrate and bring in people to the community. It's nice to see all the new additions to the month.

'Tis the season in Belleville. Holiday cheers to you.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD NOVEMBER 10, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear. Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor

Linda R. Choate, Clerk

Pamela Morrison Kersey, Treasurer, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Abstain - Crout.

Motion Carried.

08-351

2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 3, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.

Nays - None.

Abstain - Wadsworth.

Motion Carried.

08-352

3A. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to concur with the City of Romulus Planning commission and grant site plan approval on PC-2006-024 and approve PC-2008-006 special land use request for a 3,250 sq.ft. retail building including a Subway restaurant with a drive-through window based upon the finding that it is consistent with the City of Romulus Master Plan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Navs - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-353

3B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of the Romulus police Department to transfer of a 2008 SDM Licensed Business located at 35651 Van Born Road, from Fatmeh Zeidan to Emil Salamey. ID#484807.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-354

4A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Ray Cantrell Sr.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-355

5. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendation of Tom Wilson, DPW Director to authorize the repair of the DPW Vactor #120 Model 2115-36 from the sole source equipment vendor, Jack Dohen Supplies, Inc., cost not to exceed

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None. Abstain - Crout

Motion Carried.

08-356 5B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 08/09-06:

FUND/DEPT. CURRENT **AMENDED** BUDGET AMENDMENT ACCOUNT NO. ACCOUNT NAME BUDGET Expense 101-2130-721.74-14 Property Acquisition Cost 10,000 3,693 13,693 3,668,031 3,671,724 (3,693)101-0000-390.00-00 General Fund Balance

To allocate the balance of funds needed to acquire two (2) parcels from the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority per City Council Resolution 08-326.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

6A1. *Deleted*

08-357

6A2. Motion by Bragg, supported by Burcroff to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 07/08-39 and, to acknowledge a reduction in account number 101-5110-751.75-22, Budget Amendment 08/09-05, Recreation Rental Expense from 168,515 to 140,429 introduced at the meeting of October 27, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - Crout

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-358

6A3. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to schedule a Study Session on November 24, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the creation of a "Redevelopment Project Area" in the City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-359

11A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to authorize the City Treasurer to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 08-21 in the dollar amount of Four Hundred Fifty Two Thousand, Five Hundred Forty Three Dollars, and Six Cent (\$452,543.06).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Abstain - Crova.

Motion Carried.

08-360

11B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to authorize the City Treasurer to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 08-21E in the dollar amount of Eighteen Thousand, Two Hundred Ninety Dollars and Zero Cent (\$18,290.00).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to adjourn the regular meeting of the

Romulus City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on November 10, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: December 4, 2008

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Van Buren Township will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 2:00 p.m

The purpose of this meeting will be to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact.

Property Assessments can only be changed for:

- 1. Homestead exemption status
- 2. Poverty exemptions

Any property owner who believes they quality under items 1 or 2 should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734-699-8946 prior to December 9, 2008.

Leon Wright

Van Buren Charter Township

Publish:

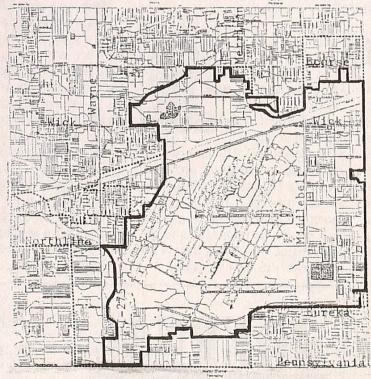
November 25, 2008 December 4, 2008

CITY OF ROMULUS COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO AMENDED AND RESTATED **DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING** PLAN (DISTRICT II) OF THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF ROMULUS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Romulus, Michigan, will hold a public hearing on Monday, the 5th day of January, 2009, at 6:45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time in the City Council Chambers, Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, to consider the adoption of a resolution approving amendments to the Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan (the "Amended and Restated Plan") for the Development Area designated as District II (the "Development Area") of the Tax Increment Finance Authority of the City of Romulus pursuant to Act 450, Public Acts of Michigan, 1980, as amended. The boundaries of the Development Area to which the Amended and Restated Plan applies are generally as fol-



The proposed amendments update the scope of projects for the Development Area. Copies of the proposed Amended and Restated Plan, together with maps, plats, and other materials pertaining to the Amended and Restated Plan are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection during regular business hours.

At the public hearing, all aspects of the Amended and Restated Plan will be open for discussion, and all interested persons desiring to address the City Council shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the Amended and Restated Plan for the Tax Increment Finance Authority of the City of Romulus.

FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained from the Economic Development Director of the City of Romulus.

THIS NOTICE is given by order of the City Council of the City of Romulus, Michigan.

LINDA R. CHOATE, CMC, City Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: December 4, 2008

SPORTS

Journey's end

Vikings fall short in state championship

Jeff Novak Staff Writer

Saturday's Division 3 bout at Ford Field was the last leg of a race between two powerhouse teams looking to set foot in the history books and claim the state championship crown.

Would it be the East Grand Rapids Pioneers or the Inkster Vikings that would reach the shores of greatness first?

It was clearly not uncharted territory for East Grand Rapids and it showed in the second half when the Pioneers pulled away for a 43-24 victory and their third straight title, ending the Vikings' long quest for their first state championship.

Chris Blair's 22-yard touchdown pass from Andrew Thompson with 18 seconds left in the first half took the wind out of the Vikings' sails and stole the momentum. It gave the Pioneers a 20-16 advantage. The pair connected again on the ensuing two-point conversion for a six-point half-time lead.

East Grand Rapids, with momentum fully on its side, extended its lead on their first drive of the third quarter. Pioneer running back Joe Glendening punched in a one-yard score and Tyler Lewis caught a Thompson

half swung a lot of momentum in their direction and on top of that to allow them to score on their first possession in the third quarter was tough and that excited them," said Inkster Coach Greg Carter. "A champion with a lot of momentum is hard to deal with and we didn't make enough plays. It put us in a position where we had to do too much too fast."

Inkster got things going again when senior DeSean McGhee ran

You have to give a lot of credit to our kids because they were determined to get here and play in a championship game.

Coach Greg Carter

back an 81-yard kick off return with 3:09 left to play. Alan Freeman ran in the conversion but the lone second-half score was too little, too late for the Vikings.

"I think our kids played extremely hard," Carter said. "For

itive game in the second half."

The first 24 minutes was a different game and Inkster demonstrated why the team deserved to be on the big stage.

Junior quarterback Devin Gardner threw a five-yard strike to senior receiver Cameron Gordon at 11:05 of the second quarter. The score, combined with a Gardner-Gordon match-up for the two-point conversion, gave the Vikings an 8-7 advantage.

Freeman busted through defenders for a five-yard touchdown with 2:23 left to play in the half. Gardner connected with Gordon for two and a 16-14 lead.

The Pioneers got the job done on defense. Josh Hall snagged an interception with 7:20 left in the second and Robert Bell scooped up a fumble on the first play of the fourth quarter. East Grand Rapids scored off both turnovers.

Inkster sophomore safety Donovan Lindsay nabbed an interception at 8:17 of the second to save a Pioneer touchdown. Inkster turned it over a minute later.

Saturday wasn't a typical day for Inkster. The usually stifling defense gave up 175 yards to Glendening and the potent Inkster offense finished with only 204 total yards.

Freeman led the team with 54 yards rushing. Gardner added 44 yards and was an uncharacteristic 5-for-16 for 84 yards passing.

Gardner, only a junior, is looking forward to next year already.

"It was a great experience playing here," he said. "We lost but I can't be mad because I know that we played as hard as we could. I played hard, the guys next to me played as hard as they could, and my whole team played as hard as they could. It's a great experience and we'll be back next year."

The Vikings are young and have a ton of talent on both sides of the oall coming back next year.

"We're going to get back at it," Carter said of preparing for next season already. "We like the experience of being here. Obviously we don't like losing the last game so we just have to get better. We have an up and coming program with some great kids that do well on the field and in the classroom and we're excited to be a part of this program."

This marked the second time in three years that the Inkster Vikings made it to Ford Field for the finale—2006 marked the first time in the school's history to make it to the championship match.

Last year the would-be undefeated Vikings were forced to forfeit it's first eight games due to two perceived ineligible players.

"I think last year gave us a lot of motivation because we realized

Inkster senior linebackers Darnell Morris, (33) and Denzel Richmond, (28) pommel East Grand Rapids running back Joe Glendening on Saturday at Ford Field. that nothing is promised to you," Carter said. "I feel bad for those

"We had a great season but we just didn't finish off this last game," he added. "You have to give a lot of credit to our kids because they were determined to get here and play in a championship game."

kids last year but they were with us

for this game—they wanted us to do

well.

High honors

Inkster was filled with talent this year proving it was a powerhouse.

But how good was the talent on

Senior wide receiver Cameron Gordon was rated as one of the top 100 receivers in the country by DeBartolo Sports University, making him eligible for the inaugural Jerry Rice High School Wide Receiver of the Year Award.

On a similar note, junior quarterback Devin Gardner was rated as one of the top 100 quarterbacks in nation by the same group and is eligible for the second annual Joe Montana High School Quarterback of the Year Award.

The winners of the two awards will be decided later this year.

Looking forward

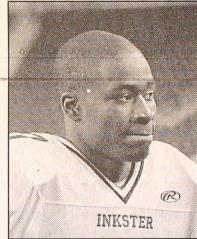
The Vikings are still in search of a new conference.

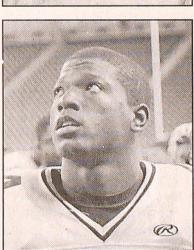
The Mega Conference is disbanding after the 2008-09 season leaving many teams stranded. Most of the teams left for newly formed conferences like the Downriver League and the Western Wayne Athletic Conference where Inkster was denied an invitation.

If the Vikings don't find a new home they will have to play as an

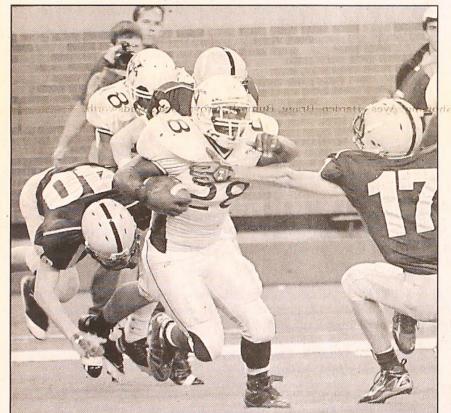
independent, which is difficult as afar a competition and scheduling, according to Carter.

On a positive note, Inkster was invited to play in the Big Day Prep Showdown at Eastern Michigan University to kickoff the 2009 season in August.





Inkster junior quarterback Devin Gardner (top) and senior wide receiver Cameron Gordon were ranked in the top 100 list for quarterbacks and receiver respectively by the DeBartolo Sports University.



Inkster senior Denzel Richmond, (28) tries to escape East Grand Rapids tacklers during a kick-off return during the Division 3 state championship game at Ford Field on Saturday.

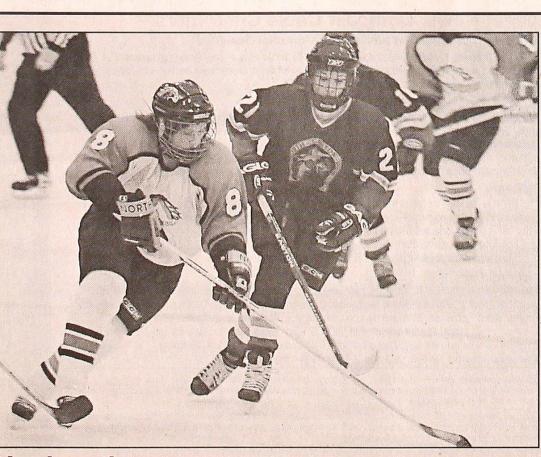
pass for the two-point conversion for a 30-16 lead.

But it didn't stop there.

At 9:53 of the fourth Thompson scored on a one-yard keeper to make it 37-16. Blair snagged a fouryard pass from Thompson to extend the lead, 43-16, with 3:23 left to play.

"The last touchdown in the first

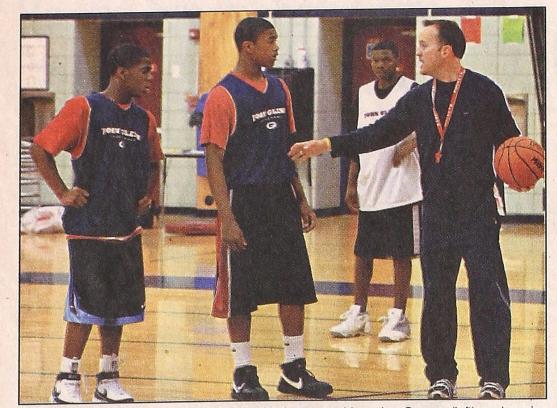
the most part you have to give a lot of credit to (East Grand Rapids) they are a great program. They made a lot of plays defensively that put them in position to score. And with the potent offense it was a lot to deal with today. Had we been able to hold them out of the end zone at the end of the first half then it would have been a more compet-



Hockey time

In an exciting week of hockey the Northville girls beat the PCS Penguins, 5-3, last Tuesday. Emily Hayes scored twice and had one assist for the Mustangs. Hannah Deacon scored once and assisted on one while Becca Champagne and Allison Holdon each scored once. Amanda Heisler, Kelsey Nikkila and Jennifer Fedon scored for the Penguins. At left, Northville senior left wing Kaitlin Archer (8) works against PCS sophomore forward Jennifer Fedon (21).

Canton and Salem boys paired off in the Salem tournament at the Plymouth Cultural Center on Friday. The match ended in a 2-2 tie. At right, Salem sophomore forward Garrett Berg (3) battles canton senior defender Donny Barlow (22). Salem beat Forest Hills North, 5-1, on Saturday. Photos by Ken Gamer



Glenn Coach Dan Young (right) works with freshman Marquise Graves (left) and senior Austin Anderson during a practice last week.

Rockets look for another successful season

Jeff Novak Staff Writer

Last year the John Glenn varsity basketball team had one of the best seasons in school history. This year, they're aiming to stay at the top.

The Rockets finished 19-5 last season, won a division title and played for the district championship in March. Not bad for a group that were consistently labeled an underdog the entire way.

There's not much room for improvement but if there is Glenn Coach Dan Young will find it. He rebuilt the team into a winner over the last two years and even though he lost six starters to graduation in June doesn't mean he can't continue forging a perennial powerhouse.

How good were the Rockets really last

All five of the starters earned full-ride scholarships to play at the college level—four for basketball and Keshawn Martin chose to play football at Michigan State University.

"That in itself is one of the greatest years personally for me," Young said. "Now all of our kids are thinking about it and actually want to go to college—they're excited about it. That's why I do this."

The bad news is Young is out six top players. That alone earns the Rockets the underdog tag again.

"We're back to being an underdog," Young said. "We're not expected to contend for anything and that's okay for us. But our guys are working really hard and doing everything that we ask."

The good news is he has six returning players that are just as—if not more—talented than last year's group.

Senior Guard Austin Anderson, the lone starter from last year, leads the new crop of players.

"Tve been waiting for this moment since my freshman year," Anderson said of being a senior starter. "Tm looking forward to being a captain and a leader."

Four other seniors join Anderson this term—all saw significant playing time last year off the bench. Forward Jon Swagerty is back in action as are forwards Dorian Prather, Derrick Crosby and Brandyn Jonkins

As of last week in practice Anderson, Swagerty, Prather and Crosby are likely to start, along with returning junior guard Jeremy Langford, according to Young.

Jenkins will be one of the first off the bench along with freshman guard Marquise "Graves is one of the notable newcomers," Young said. "He will be the first guard off of the bench and he can play the one and the two. He shoots it well and is very quick, tough and is a great kid."

Juniors fill up the rest of the spots with Deon Blair, Cortez Hernton, Darrell Davis and Marlen Dede at guard and Jajuan Marks and Austin Omogbayi at forward.

"Our goal is to just play as a team," Anderson said. "We have to work together. We're going to be good. I already know that because we all work hard in practice every day. As long as we come in and work hard and make each other better every day we'll be fine—once one person gets better we all get better."

What the team lacks in size it will make up for in teamwork. Swagerty is the tallest player, standing at 6-foot-5 with three others at 6-4—above the average of many Kensington Lakes Activities Association (KLAA) teams—but still a concern for Young.

"Our strengths are going to have to be innumbers," he said. "We're going to have to rebound as a pack. We're going to have to defend as a team. We're going to have to score together."

In the new KLAA South Division Glenn will face tough opponents in Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Plymouth, Canton and cross-town rival Wayne, who beat the Rockets in the conference championship last year

"We keep talking about how the scoreboard will take care of itself if the players do their assignments and give to the team and do the best that they can," Young said. "It still goes back to sharing the ball and playing great defense. We have to be good defensive-

ly if we're going to be competitive."

There's no question that the Rockets surprised a lot of people with the outstanding record and falling only to Romulus—one of the top-ranked teams in the state last year that made it to the state semifinals at Michigan State University's Breslin Center—in the district finale.

Many would like to see them repeat the success but no one more than Anderson.

"There's a lot of pressure but I don't think we're really going to worry about that," he

"We have just as good of talent as we had last year so I'm pretty sure we don't have to worry about it. We're going to be just as good as last year."

The Rockets open the season at home against district opponent Belleville at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12.

Glenn senior Austin Anderson takes a shot during practice last week. Anderson is expected to step in as the lone experienced starter this sea-

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CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to be held Monday, December 22 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan to consider establishing an Industrial Development District pursuant to P.A. 198 of 1974, as amended, for **Metal and Welding Industries**, 14011 Harrison Road and 14211 Harrison Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Land in the City of Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan

14011 Harrison Road

25HH1 PT OF SE 1/4 SEC 25 T3S R9E BEG NODEG 14M 10S E 2390.69FT FROM S 1/4 COR OF SEC 25 TH NODEG 14M 10S E 218.32FT TH S88DEG 56M 40S E 658.45FT TH S0DEG 17M 43S W 218.32FT TH N88DEG 56M 40S W 658.36FT POB 3.30 AC

14211 Harrison Road

25HH2 PT OF SE 1/4 SEC 25 T3S R9E BEG N0 0DEG 14M 10S E 2173.72FT FROM S 1/4 COR SEC 25 TH N00DEG 14M 10S E 216.97FT TH S88DEG 56M 40S E 658.36FT TH S00DEG 17M 43S W 216.27FT TH N89DEG 00M 16S W 658.13FT POB 3.27 AC

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING! All interested citizens are invited to attend, and will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposal. Written comments may be forwarded no later than 2008 at 12 o'clock noon, Prevailing Eastern Time to the attention of:

City of Romulus Linda R. Choate, City Clerk 11111 Wayne Road Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485 734-942-7540

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

cc: Wayne County Bureau of Taxation
Wayne County Intermediate School District
Wayne County Community College
Romulus Community Schools
Romulus Tax Assessor
Metal and Welding Industries, Inc. d/b/a W Industries

Publish: December 4, 2008

Great News, Comcast Cable Customers!

Important information about your Comcast Services

Effective January 6, 2009, Comcast will offer the HD Triple Play in your market, a new service bundle that includes a High-Definition set-top box and High-Definition video service. The following are the three tiers of the HD Triple Play:

HD Starter

The HD Starter package includes the following services: Digital Starter video service, On Demand, High-Definition set-top box and service, Comcast High-Speed Internet Performance Service with Powerboost™ and Comcast Digital Voice® with the Unlimited calling plan that includes unlimited local and long-distance calls to the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and certain other U.S. territories. The standard price for this package is \$134.99 per month.

ID Plus

The HD Plus package includes the following services: **Digital Preferred** video service with **HBO**,* On Demand, **High-Definition set-top box** and service, **Comcast High-Speed Internet Performance Plus** Service and **Comcast Digital Voice*** with the Unlimited calling plan that includes unlimited local and long-distance calls to the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and certain other U.S. territories. **The standard price for this package is \$169.99 per month.**

HD Premier

The HD Premier package includes the following services: Digital Premier video service with HBO,* Starz,* Cinemax,* Showtime* and the Sports Entertainment Package, On Demand, High-Definition Digital Video Recorder (DVR) set-top box and service, Comcast High-Speed Internet Blast!* Service and Comcast Digital Voice* with the Unlimited calling plan that includes unlimited local and long-distance calls to the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and certain other U.S. territories. The standard price for this package is \$209.99 per month.

Effective January 6, 2009, Preferred Basic will no longer be available for new subscriptions. If you currently subscribe to Preferred Basic, you will continue to receive the service until further notice unless you change the services to which you subscribe.

Effective January 6, 2009, the current Digital Premier package will change to Total Premium. This name change will not impact the pricing or the channels that current customers receive. As of January 6, 2009, Total Premium will no longer be available for new subscriptions.

Effective January 6, 2009, the current Digital Premier and Sports Entertainment Pack will change to Total Premium and Sports Entertainment Pack. This name change will not impact pricing or the channels that current customers receive. As of January 6, 2009, Total Premium and Sports Entertainment Pack will no longer be available for new subscriptions.

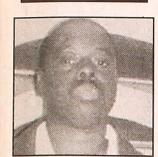
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CLASSIFIED

1. Obituaries



Andre Lamont Williams, "Bleek", Andre "Bird" made his transition on November 2008. He Leaves to cherish his memories:

his grandmother, Sarah Williams; his mother, Karen Williams;

father Samuel Neal(Georgia); his lifetime companion Jakena Wonder

and his five special children he fathered: Shayfiean, Cashone,

Shakena, Elijah and Chozen; his son A.J.; grandmother, Olivia

Neal: brothers: Tyris Williams and Akeem; sister Ebony of Inkster; aunts:

Gwendolyn Williams of Inkster; Grace (Greg) Stewart, Katherine Williams of

Ann Arbor; niece NaTonya, nephew Jordan Williams and a host

relatives and friends that loved him. Friday, November 21, 2008, Funeral, The Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S.

Inkster.

Inkster, MI, Interment, Sunset Hills Cemetery, 9470 Ford, Ypsilanti, MI



David Lee Grimes, Jr. A.K.A. "D" as well as "Aurt" his day of creation: May 20, 1971, His day of expiration: November 10, 2008 He leaves behind his moth-

Edith Louise Cowan Grimes, her fiance Bernard Roquemore, his fiance Janice Sherman, three brothers; Curtis Grimes, Cornell Grimes, Willie Grimes, brother-in-law; Lavar Nelson stepchildren; Mark Sherman, Janina Sherman, Curtis' fiance Tarsha Wall, Armon Miller, nieces;

Tomeka, Tinerra, Shawntea, Brenda, Nyteisha, Seanteisha, Tatyanah, nephews; DeUnte (his protege), Curtis, Jr., DeMarco, Demetrius, DeUndre, great nephew; Demar and a

uncles, cousins, and friends. Funeral, Sat., November 22, 2008. Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster,

Inkster, MI

host of aunts,



Deacon Milton Derek Moton June 16, 1953, November 20, 2008 Deacon Milton leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate

his beloved wife Apostle Annette Moton; sons: Elijah & Elisha Moton, Milton Moton III, Dionto Moton and

Corey (Tanisha) Moore; daughters: Minister Catherina (Pastor Milton II) Jackson and Deana (Dorian)

Jackson; stepsons: Ivan Williams, Robert (Jamie) Williams, Anthony (Yvonne) Skinner, Brian (Natasha) Skinner; stepdaughters:

Pamela Michelle Nions, Arica Willingham, Chauntay Moore; 33 grandchildren; mother Sarah Moton of

Inkster, MI; two sisters Shirley Moton of Inkster, MI; Evangelist Doris Moton-Spruill of

Inkster, MI; one brother Keith Laurence (Evangelist Marcella) Moton of Detroit.

MI an uncle John (Rosie) Moton and a host of relatives and friends. Christ Temple, 29124 Eton, Westland, MI Pastor Milton Jackson II.

Penn Funeral Home, 3015 Inkster Rd, Inkster, MI, Interment, Knollwood Cemetery, 1299 Ridge, Canton, MI

James William Love Sr.

Sunrise: January 21, 1940,

Sunset: November 17, 2008

James departed this life on

Monday, November 17,

2008, he leaves to cherish

his memory: two sons,

James William and Gerald

Alexander; step son,

Benjamin Andrea; one

daughter, Venita Marvel;

three daughter-in-laws;

Denise. Comfort and

Claudia; two sister-in-laws,

Shirley and Muriel: 22

grandchildren, Lakeisha,

Carl, Andrew, Danielle,

Dominique, James III, Mi-

Steven, Alexis, Benjamin,

Mackenzie, Clair, Stone,

King, Bernice, Gerald,

J'Leon, Sierra, Arianna and

Arianna; 21 Great-

Grandchildren and a host of

other relatives and friends.

High Praise Cathedral Faith

4010 Moore

Inkster, Michigan 48141 Bishop Clarence B. Hatton

Officiating

Penn Funeral Home

3015 Inkster Road

Inkster, Michigan 48141

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James H. Penn & Son -

Directors

Tri-County Cremation

Service

Ypsilanti, Michigan

Loise Scott,

Sunrise: November 30,

1920.

Sunset: November 17, 2008.

She leaves to cherish her

memory,

her loving and devoted son

Gregory

(Janice) Scott of Wayne, MI;

One

step-son; Franklin (Lorri)

Michaux

of Inkster, MI; One step-

worker Company at 75 years of age. Survived by his daughters, Ypsilanti, MI.

> of Romulus, MI, 3 sons, Raymond (Laura) Meyer of Belding, MI, Donald (Kimberly) Meyer of Romulus, MI and

grandchildren and 10 greatgrandchildren, of Tampa,

Preceded in death by a sister Dolores Meyer and a brother Raymond Meyer. A funeral service was at DAVID C BROWN

Johnson officiating.

Memorials to the be appreciated.



Ruby D. Fowler Sunrise: December 25,1926, Sunset: November 22, 2008 She departed this life on November 22, 2008 from Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. She leaves to

mourn her loving husband James Fowler, daughter Deborah A McMullen; grand-daughter Camielle

Douglas: sister Beulah Martin; grandchildren: Derrick A. Clark, Anita R. Clark,

Candice Johnson (Leinard), great-Wilcox Jr.,

Domonique Wells, Danielle T. Williams, Demitrius (Meechie) Gross, Jaylan

Gregory Scott Jr., of Minneapolis, MN, Christopher & Justin Scott of Lansing, MI; three Church,

granddaughters Kimberly & Corrin Michaux of Inkster, MI; Pamela Thomas of Johnstown, PA and a host

daughter Christine (Junior) Bailey of

Johnstown,

PA; three grandsons-

of relatives and friends.. Funeral, Friday, November 21, 2008, Smith Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 3505

Walnut St., Inkster, MI., Rev. Thomas M Higginbothan, officiating Final Arrangements, Penn Funeral Home, 3505 Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI

Meyer, Norman Donald, age 76, died at home in Romulus, November 25, 2008.

He was born August 14, 1932 in Romulus, son of the late

Herman and Elva (Place) Meyer. Norman graduated in

Romulus in 1952. He proudly served his country in the Navy reserve. He

loved shopping for and collecting antiques. Norman enjoyed hunting,

fishing and woodworking in spare time and was a hard who retired from Ford Motor

wife Agnes (Senart) Meyer, 2 Kathy (Dale) Miron of

and Betty Jo (Byron) Good

David (Donna) Meyer of Clarksville, TN. 13

2 sisters Betty Lee Williams FL and Joan Mitchell of NC

FUNERAL HOME, Belleville,

28, 2008 with Pastor Tim Interment was in Cadillac

Memorial Gardens-West, Westland. Willis Baptist Church would www.davidcbrownfh.com

E. Anderson; son Gregory A

grandchildren Mark A. Steven N. Anderson, Monique (Pumpkin)

Clark, Davionte C. Clark,

Gross and Amauri Deusette Smith Chapel A.M.E.

3505 Walnut, Inkster, MI, Rev. Thomas M. Higginbothan, Pastor, Rev. Monatague,

Officiating, Penn Funeral

Home, 3015 S. Inkster, MI, Interment, United Memorial Gardens, 4800 Curtis Rd., Plymouth, MI

Watson, Anna Mae, Wayne, MI (formerly of Westland), Age 71, passed away Friday, November 28, 2008 at Annapolis Hospital. She was born April 18, 1937 in Round County, KY, the daughter of Alvis and Delma (Phillips) Meadows. On April 10, 1958, she married Jackie Watson in Angola, IN and he

October 9, 1994. Anna was a homemaker all her life. Survivors include: two daughters,

preceded her in death

Mary (James) McDaniel of Nevada and

Julia McDaniel of OK; one son, Michael Watson of Wayne;

grandchildren; one great grandson; and three brothers, Jack (Sandra) Cline of Canto, Larry Cline of

and Robert Cline of IN. In addition to her husband, she was

preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and two brothers. Memorial services were held Thursday,

December 4, 2008 at Stark Funeral Service Moore Chapel. Burial followed in Highland Cemetery. The family received friends

at the funeral home Wednesday. Please sign her guest book at www.starkfuneral.com



Wesley (Cabbage) Garrett Jr. Sunrise: 11/21/47, Sunset: 11/21/08 "Cabbage"

To cherish his loving memory, he leaves seven children, Debora (Willie) Simmons, Andrew Heyward of Ridgeland, South Carolina;

Wesley (Shirley) Garrett, of

Romulus, Michigan; Takeelia (Leon) Lynn of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Elease Garrett, Michael Garrett of Inkster, Michigan; and Amber Mixon of Taylor, Michigan. His siblings William Rhett Jr. of Inkster, Michigan; Patricia Garrett Fayson, Lynn Garrett Cox and Tyrone Garrett all of South Carolina. Eight grandchildren Nathan, Jermarrio, Qwaneisha, Willie Jr., David, Keveon, Adriana and Ariana. Also a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. His best friends and cousins, Andy, Earnest

(Fuzzy), Jonl and Andrew. Greater Grace Temple, **OGHM** 24111 Koths St., Taylor, MI 48180

Suffragan Bishop Gary Harper Officiating Penn Funeral Home 3015 S. Inkster Rd. Inkster, MI 48141 Mr. James H. Penn & Son, Directors Interment

Knollwood Cemetery

1299 Ridge Rd.

Canton, MI 48187

9. Lost & Found

CAT FOUND... A Female cat black and white. Found in area of Glenwood and Venoy. Wayne/Westland. Call 734-397-8187.

34. Specialized Services

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59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale. On December 16, 2008 at 1:00 pm U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 will sell the follow-

units to highest bidder by Cash. U-Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all

bids. "All items in storage units contain household and misc. items

unless otherwise mentioned. C9, Jeffrey A. Stickney; E 39, D and M Home Improvement; C 50, Emily Boglin; and D

Sabrina Spratling.

PUBLIC SALE Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 10 am.

87 OLDS CUTLASS WGN-WHITE 1G3AJ81W7HD407501 96 MERCURY MARQUIS 4DR-TAN

2MELM75W6TX644288 90 DODGE 2DR-WHITE 1B3XG24KXLG486119 94 FORD ESCORT 4DR GREEN 1FARP15J8RW278042

96 LINCOLN TOWNCAR 4DR-WHITE 1LNLM82W4TY602483 88 FORD TAURUS 4DR-BLUE 1FABBP53UXJG129149 94 CHEV CAPRICE 4DR-

1G1BN52P4RR125165 AT- 300 S. NEWBURGH. WESTLAND. NOTE- WESTLAND

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EHO 89. Apartments For Rent

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Inkster

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2. In Memoriam





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> Marquis, Kathy, Gloria Michelle, and Garnett

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